

R E P O R T
OF THE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OF THE
TOWN OF OAKHAM,
FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR 1865-6.



WORCESTER:
ASA B. ADAMS, PRINTER, 212 MAIN STREET.
1866.

R E P O R T

O F T H E

S C H O O L C O M M I T T E E

O F T H E

T O W N O F O A K H A M,

F O R T H E S C H O O L Y E A R 1865-6.

W O R C E S T E R:

A S A B. A D A M S, P R I N T E R, 212 M A I N S T R E E T.

1 8 6 6 .

SCHOOL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1865-6.

DISTRICTS.	TEACHERS.	Residence.	Proportion of School Money.	Wages per month.	Length of School in days.		Gain or Loss.	No. of Scholars.	Av. Attendance per cent.	Av. Marks to each Scholar.	No. of Tardy Scholars under five.	No. of Scholars over fifteen.	
					Sum	Ter.							
East Centre, West Centre, South West, South.	Kate M. Ayres, Eunice H. Ayres, None.	Oakham, Oakham,	118.26	\$20.00 14.00	43 50	-7 -5	39 35	2 4	.89 .82	-.06 .19	0.70 0.57	3 1	0 0
East Hill, North, Coldbrook, West,	Minnie M. Parmenter, Abby F. Lovell, Mary A. Lovell, Harriet R. Lane, Kate A. Ayres,	Oakham, Oakham, Oakham, Barre, Oakham,	89.66 64.30 77.73 79.31 114.32	16.00 16.00 18.00 22.00 12.00	50 40 42 40 55	-4 -9 -8 -10 4	33 7 8 28 13	13 -3 -4 28 -5	.92 .97 .84 .85 .84	-.06 .01 -.02 .05 -.13	0.09 0.01 0.25 0.21 2.50	2 1 1 1 0	1 0 0 0 0
Prudential Committee.													
East Centre, West Centre, South West, South.	Henry A. Wilder, Mary A. Lovell, Jesse Allen, Minnie M. Parmenter, Maria R. Conant, Eunice H. Ayres, Jennie M. Pratt, Kate A. Ayres.	Oakham, Oakham, Oakham, Oakham, Oakham, Oakham, Princeton, Oakham,	James Packard Wm. S. Spear, H. W. Lincoln Asa A. Dean. Wm. S. Crawford N. Brooks None H. P. Austin	32.00 20.00 16.00 19.00 22.00 22.00 22.00 22.00	40 50 60 39 39 50 19	-10 10 0 1 1 20 19	44 33 0 11 11 32 16	-5 -1 -2 0 0 -5 -9	.90 .93 .93 .80 .82 .90 .85	-.02 .10 .04 -.04 0 .03 .09	1.03 0.60 1.46 0.40 1.73 0.21 2.00 1.12	0 0 0 1 0 1 2 0	8 5 6 4 6 5 5 2

R E P O R T .

THE School Committee of Oakham, respectfully submit the following

A N N U A L R E P O R T .

While there has been some excellent schools this past year, they have on the whole held a lower average than usual. Nor do your committee see much hope of better schools till the town see fit to appropriate more money for the purpose. For now we drive away almost all our experienced and successful teachers, and are compelled to accept even for winter schools those who will come cheap because they are but apprentices in the art of teaching, or having homes in town prefer to teach near home to obtaining larger stipends elsewhere. It is no fault of young teachers that they are inexperienced, and several of those who have yet had but small experience, bid fair to be most excellent and successful teachers. But most of our winter schools cannot attain the degree of excellence under beginners which is due to our scholars. It has been suggested that we hire the best teachers for a shorter term; but is not eight weeks short term enough? and the *best* teachers will not teach an eight weeks' school when they can have one of twelve or fourteen weeks. Another reason also growing out of the same "grace of poverty" for the present low grade of our schools, is the necessity for such short terms—shorter this year than ever before. Seven terms had eight or nine weeks, only three had twelve weeks in the winter term. Now it is generally regarded among teachers that the first seven weeks of a school are worth

not more, if hardly as much as the last five weeks, so that an eight weeks' school has made but little more than one-half the progress of one of twelve weeks.

It seems to be the poorest policy to stint our schools. It not only leaves a very poor legacy to our children in their education, but it depreciates every farm in town. Even were it not so, we ought to make most strenuous efforts to keep up the schools.

We believe we are simply uttering the desire of a large proportion of all who send children to school, when we express the hope that the town will appropriate at least one thousand dollars for schools the coming year.

SCHOOL HOUSES.

In most of the districts there has been shown a very commendable zeal to possess neat and appropriate school-houses with their appointments. But there is not one in which there is not need of more black-board, and we would respectfully call the attention of the districts to this matter.

The South District have remodeled the interior of their house to very great advantage. The North and West school-houses are excellent, with well arranged, wide, comfortable seats and desks.

The two centre school-houses are neat and in good repair ; the desks are also good, but the arrangement is not so good, and the seats narrow, high, and straight-backed, are oh ! so uncomfortable. If the voters of these districts could be induced to sit on these seats for one half day, with the prospect of another like season of torture, there would be a change before the second half day found them there. The discomfort, the restlessness, the stooping shoulders among forty children sitting on these seats sixty days in succession is something fearful.

We hope ere long to see these two districts united in a new school-house and a graded school; but in the mean time a small expense would greatly remedy this grievous evil, and add to the prosperity, comfort, and health of the pupils in these districts.

The East Hill school-house is near relation to the above save in house and desks. The Southwest is fair outside but sadly in need

within. The school-house at Coldbrook has been unfit for a school some time, and the extent of its ventilation seriously interfered with the progress of the school during the past winter. A new house will have to be built before the next school. We hope the district will organize and unite in building such an one as will be an honor to their improving village; if not it only remains for the school committee to undertake the work.

It is earnestly to be hoped that every person in town of suitable age will avail themselves of all the school advantages which the town affords, and that no disaffection toward teacher, school, or committee shall be allowed to lessen in any degree the already too small number of school days. There is no poorer way of attempting to punish the committee or the teachers than by withdrawing our children from school; it is warring with the butt of the gun toward *them* and the muzzle toward ourselves.

We need give special praise to those teachers who have had exercises during the term in declamations, as in the South and West schools, and declamations and compositions, as in the West Centre. These are exercises which every scholar of suitable age ought to practice, and though we may not enforce them, we are always pleased when attention is given to them.

Singing and general exercises in several schools deserve special commendation, and we desire that in every school there shall be sufficient time devoted to them.

Geographical names are all pronounced in the present geographies, and teachers need to take special pains to have all such names pronounced correctly, a matter in which some have been delinquent, and there should be earnest care on the part of the teacher, and by the pupils correcting each other, to pronounce all words correctly. For it is with the utmost difficulty that a wrong pronunciation taught in youth can ever be eradicated. There has also been a too general neglect of penmanship. Some of the scholars have imagined that it was optional with them whether they wrote or not, and teachers have in some cases acted on such imagination. But teachers and scholars will understand that this is a prescribed study for every scholar old enough to practice it,

and none should be allowed to neglect it, or to pass over it slightly. More earnest work must be given to this matter, and if any pupil objects, it is a pretty certain sign that he or she has special need of this practice. It is not sufficient merely to go through a routine of recitations from the book, without other questionings or explanations. Every scholar ought to be made to understand the *principles* of his studies, so that a question can be answered in another form as well as in that given in the book, and every rule of arithmetic should be so understood that the pupil will be able to apply the rule to other examples of like kind, and examples not in the book should be given under each rule till the rule in its applications is thoroughly understood. Eaton's Questions on Arithmetic, costing but ten or twelve cents, would be for this purpose an invaluable aid to the teacher. There is too much following in one beaten track of the text book, and too little teaching of independent thought.

NOT ABSENT NOR TARDY.

EAST CENTRE DISTRICT.

Summer.

Lizzie J. Bullard,	Carrie M. Lincoln,	Abby C. Jones.
Ellen F. Knight,	Lizzie E. Morse,	

Winter.

Laura Burt,	Lizzie J. Bullard,	Geo. H. Wilder.
Geo. Lincoln,	Carrie M. Lincoln,	

WEST CENTRE DISTRICT.

Summer.

J. H. Orzina Lovell,	Olive F. Spooner,	Henry L. Babbitt,
K. Louise Maynard,	Josie M. Ware,	Eddie W. Holden.

Winter.

Mattie B. Allen,	Josie M. Ware,	John E. Lovell,
Flora A. Jenks,	James Brown,	Bernard P. Lovell,
J. H. Orzina Lovell,	Sammie R. Dean,	George T. Lovell,
Ida H. Lovell,	Mary C. Holden,	Lucian B. Spooner,
K. Louise Maynard,	Edward W. Holden,	Charles M. Thompson.
Alice I. Maynard,		

SOUTHWEST DISTRICT.

Frank Macomber,	Jonas Shedd,	Abby J. Lincoln.
Charles H. Shedd,		

SOUTH DISTRICT.

Summer.

Amnie C. Clary,	Mary P. Luff,	Jessie F. Morgan,
Hattie M. Dean,	Julia Tobin,	Alice L. Sherman,
Amanda A. Dean,	Mary E. Dwelly,	Martha L. Boyd,
Lizzie S. Morgan,	Abby J. Dean,	Emma F. Adams,
Mary A. Sherman,	Abby A. Bush,	George A. Parmenter.

Winter.

Abby J. Dean,	Geo. A. Parmenter,	Mary A. Sherman,
Mary E. Dwelly,	Otis H. Adams,	John Tobin,
Emma F. Adams,	Amanda A. Dean,	Edward H. Dwelly.

EAST HILL DISTRICT.

Summer.

Hannah A. Drury,	George H. Henry,	Charles F. Dean.
Hattie S. Henry,	Etta L. Dean,	

Winter.

Hannah F. Drury,	Charles F. Dean,	John Maynard,
Martin H. Maynard,	Hattie S. Henry,	George H. Henry.

NORTH DISTRICT.

Summer.

Lottie H. Adams,
Rosa J. Bullard,
Flora A Green,

Levi H. Adams,
Henry Fobes,
Mary A. Adams,

Mary M. Bullard,
Jennie L. Maynard,
Henry Bullard.

Winter.

Flora A. Green,
Rosa J. Bullard,
Mary M. Bullard,

Robert Matthews,
Ella S. Fobes,

John L. Dean,
C. Andrew Matthews.

COLDBROOK DISTRICT.

Summer.

Ida May Bemis,

Maida Parker,

Daniel M. Parker.

Winter.

Electa L. Allen,

Orrin Perkins.

WEST DISTRICT.

Summer.

Charly Trowbridge, James H. Ware.

Winter.

Willie H. Austin,

Charly Trowbridge, James H. Ware.

F. N. PELOUBET,
M. O. AYRES,
H. W. LINCOLN, }
 } School
 } Committee.

Oakham, March 13, 1866.

